

away at age 37. For the past six years, Gary served the State of Colorado with great distinction as a Member of the Colorado State House of Representatives. As family, friends, and colleagues mourn this sudden and terrible loss, I would like to pay tribute to this statesman and friend.

Gary was born in Auburn, Washington, but attended school at Platte Valley Academy in Nebraska, graduating in 1981. He went on to Union College where his thirst for knowledge earned him a degree in business administration, as well as minors in history, psychology, social science and sociology. Gary then went on to earn his law degree at the University of Nebraska in 1988.

After law school, Gary moved on to what would become a highly successful career. His time as a lawyer saw him practicing for a number of different law firms, including Hall & Evans, Elrod, Katz, Preco & Look P.C., Fortune & Lawritson P.C., and most recently Kissinger & Fellman P.C.

In addition to his many accomplishments as a lawyer, Gary also served in the Colorado Legislature with great distinction. As a legislator, Representative McPherson fought hard on a range of issues important to Colorado's future. During his tenure in the legislature, Gary served as member of the Appropriations and Judicial committees as well as Chairman of the House Finance Committee.

Before serving in the Colorado State Legislature, Representative McPherson was a member of numerous organizations promoting the health and vitality of his community and all of Colorado. He served as president and board member of Jackson Farms Homeowners Association, director of the Attorney/Physician Suspension Alternative Project, chairman of the ABA Prelaw Counseling Committee, board member and legislative liaison for the Colorado Bar Association Military Law Commission, and vice chairman and board member of Arapahoe County Park and Recreation District.

Giving back to his community was a priority for Representative McPherson and his hard work and determination earned him a number of awards. His honors include Colorado Bar Association's Outstanding Young Lawyer, Aurora Public Schools Superintendent's Award, International Academy of Trial Lawyer's Award, and CACI Legislator of the Year 1995.

Gary was an incredible human being, a loving and devoted father, husband, and friend. His compassion for others and commitment to his community will not soon be forgotten. Gary served his community, State, and Nation admirably. This statesman, family man, and friend will be greatly missed.

PUTIN'S POTEMKIN DEMOCRACY IN RUSSIA

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 18, 2000

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, recent very disturbing trends in Russia with respect to press freedom have raised serious doubts about democratic development in that country. The

current effort by Russian President Vladimir Putin to eliminate the independent news media in Russia is a serious threat to Russia's democratic future.

It will take a long time to build democracy in Russia, Mr. Speaker, but one of the very few encouraging signs of the last decade in Russia was the presence of a free press. Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, I am using the past tense—it was an encouraging sign.

I sincerely hope that Mr. Putin's administration puts an end to the persecution and harassment of whatever is left of the free media in Russia. But the attack against the independent media is serious and systematic, and it is deadly earnest.

Mr. Speaker, the Washington Post (October 2, 2000) published an excellent editorial expressing serious concern about freedom of the press in Russia. I ask that the text of this editorial be placed in the RECORD. I urge my colleagues to read this important editorial.

IMAGE AND REALITY IN RUSSIA

[The Washington Post, Oct. 2, 2000]

Russian President Vladimir Putin tends to his international image with skill. He dines with American media heavyweights in New York City and professes his commitment to a free press. He lunches with former dissident Nathan Sharansky in the Kremlin and insists on his love of human rights. For a pathetically small price—a bit of attention—he co-opts Mikhail Gorbachev, who in turn says nice things about the young Russian president to foreign media. All this impresses Western leaders. Meanwhile, Mr. Putin is in the process of destroying the independent media in Russia. If he succeeds, democratization will be severely set back.

On a small scale, you can see Mr. Putin at work in the case of Andrei Babitsky, who is scheduled to go on trial in southern Russia today. Mr. Babitsky is a reporter for Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty who reported honestly on brutal Russian behavior in Chechnya. Russian security forces arrested him for this affront and then arranged for him to be kidnapped by Chechen criminals. President Putin pretended to know nothing about this until international pressure became a liability, at which point Mr. Babitsky was freed. But the bullying did not stop. Mr. Putin's administration is prosecuting the reporter for carrying false documents—documents forced on him by his kidnappers.

Mr. Putin's assault on Media-Most is potentially more serious. The company owns NTV, the only Russian television network not controlled by the government. It also owns a radio station and publishes a daily newspaper and, in partnership with The Washington Post Co.'s Newsweek, a weekly magazine. Its survival now is threatened by a commercial dispute with the giant natural gas company, Gazprom, that lent it money.

As in the Babitsky case, Mr. Putin pretends not to be involved in this dispute. But the Kremlin owns a large piece of Gazprom and effectively controls the firm. Mr. Putin's administration set the stage for the dispute by throwing Media-Most's owner into prison for three days. After this KGB-style intimidation, the owner, Vladimir Gusinsky, was pressured—by a member of Mr. Putin's cabinet acting in close consultation with the Kremlin—to sign an unfavorable contract. Mr. Gusinsky was promised in return his freedom, which President Putin apparently feels is a commodity to be bargained, not a fundamental right. Now, despite Mr. Putin's

protest of noninvolvement in a commercial dispute, his prosecutor-general has opened a criminal fraud case against Mr. Gusinsky.

The West has little leverage over Russia. Oil prices are high, meaning that Russia, an oil-producing country, no longer needs Western loans. But as his image campaign suggests, Mr. Putin does crave acceptance in the West. Western leaders should welcome him as long as he respects democracy at home. If he does not—if he persists in undermining Russia's independent media—the G-8 group of leading industrialized nations should return to being a G-7. A Potemkin democrat does not belong in the club of democracies.

RESOLUTION HONORING NOBEL
LAUREATES DR. ERIC R.
KANDEL AND DR. PAUL
GREENGARD

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 18, 2000

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a resolution to honor the American winners of the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for 2000, Drs. Eric R. Kandel and Paul Greengard. These two distinguished scientists will share this year's award with a third winner, Dr. Arvid Carlsson of Sweden.

The scientists were recognized by the Nobel Assembly at Karolinska Institute for their important contributions to understanding how brain cells interact with each other at the molecular level to create moods and memories in individuals. Their separate but related pursuits, which began in the 1950s, have provided the basis for today's understanding of mental illness and neurological disorders, including schizophrenia, depression, bipolar disorder, Alzheimer's disease, and Parkinson's disease. This understanding has been essential for the drugs and treatments that have been already developed for these afflictions and provide the foundation for even more promising research in these areas.

Last year, the Office of the Surgeon General published Mental Health: A Report of the Surgeon General, which noted that although the United States leads the world in understanding the importance of mental health to the overall health of its people, the nation still has many challenges to meet. Today, one in five people in the United States are afflicted with some form of mental disorder. Furthermore, mental disorder is one of the key contributors to a leading cause of preventable deaths—suicide. The federal government, particularly the National Institutes of Health (NIH) has provided strong support toward research efforts in the mental health area. Indeed, NIH contributed to the discoveries made by Drs. Kandel and Greengard through grants and research support for over 30 years. As we celebrate the honor bestowed by the Nobel Assembly upon Drs. Kandel and Greengard, we should also look forward to the challenges ahead, which include not only continued scientific research but also improving the delivery of mental health services and helping society to overcome ingrained fears and misconceptions concerning mental illness.